



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ANTROSTOMUS CAROLINENSIS.

BY R. MATTHEWS, WICHITA.

Read December 29, 1898.

Sunday, June 12, 1898, I was in the woods along the Arkansas river, three miles south of Wichita. A bird flew from the ground in dense underbrush, and I recognized it as a whippoorwill. The first impulse was to shoot it; but instantly recognizing by its actions that it had eggs or young, I set myself to find the nest. I did not succeed in finding it. I went away and returned in an hour, still finding the bird in the same locality. I made another unsuccessful search for the nest, and left again.

In a couple of hours I came back again, and approaching with great caution, I was delighted to see the bird rise from the identical spot again. This time I searched diligently, but without success. So, as I could not return again, I shot the bird, took it home, skinned and stuffed with cotton, and tried to identify by Goss's "Birds of Kansas." The bird would not identify, but by an inference seemed to be *Antrostomus carolinensis*.

I afterward proved this to be the case by Coues's "Key to the Birds of North America." When I was satisfied I sent the skin to Professor Snow for his opinion, and received this from him: . . . "You are correct as to the identity. . . . It is not recorded that it has been taken in Kansas before."

Unfortunately the cat tore this specimen to pieces so it could not be mounted. There were left the upper half of the head, both wings, one leg and one foot entire, and a few tail and other feathers. These I sent to Professor Snow.

WERE QUAILS NATIVE TO KANSAS?

BY J. R. MEAD, WICHITA.

Read before the Academy December 30, 1898.

Bob-white, *Colinus virginianus*; Texas bob-white, *Colinus virginianus texanus*.

In Colonel Goss's "Birds of Kansas," page 222, he says:

"I have been informed by military men and hunters that bob-whites were occasionally seen on the Cimarron river, south of Fort Dodge, from 1862 to 1866. This was long before our birds, in following up the settlements, had reached the central portion of the state, and it is safe to conclude that the birds found there were of this variety."

"This southwestern race, as a bird of western Kansas, rests on two specimens in the United States National Museum, collected May 27, 1864, by Dr. Elliott Coues, on the Republican river, in the northwestern part of the state."

It would be presumption in me to correct so eminent an authority as Colonel Goss, our lamented friend and brother. Perhaps my opportunities of observation in some instances were better than his.

I went upon the plains of western Kansas in 1859, and lived along with nature as it came from the hand of the Creator for ten years; and among other things I found quail, "bob-whites," the same as I had killed in hundreds in Iowa and Illinois, but smaller, along the timbered streams where thickets afforded protection. They were not numerous; a covey here and there. Half a dozen coveys might be seen in a day's tramp along the Saline or Smoky Hill or their branches.

I saw them in 1859 in the heart of the buffalo range, and every year since. They were more plentiful along the southern border of the state and in the Indian territory, where shelter was better. On account of their many enemies—wildcats sneaking upon them both night and day, coyotes and skunks destroying their nests, hawks watching for them, and the terrific fires which sometimes swept through the thickets in which they lived, blizzards burying them deep in the crusted snow, they could not exist except in sheltered thickets. They were very wild, always flying when approached. I do not remember of seeing one on the ground, and I noticed that they were considerably smaller than the quails of Iowa.

In the same localities were considerable numbers of prairie-hens and sharp-tailed grouse.

Bob-whites rapidly increased with the settlement of the country. Whether they are descended from the original stock of the country I cannot say; but, from the fact that our quails are considerably smaller than the Iowa bird, I think most of them are.

FELIS CONCOLOR.

BY J. R. MEAD, WICHITA.

Read December 30, 1898.

Felis concolor, locally known as mountain lion, panther, cougar, puma, and perhaps other names, was occasionally found in central Kansas in its first settlement; was common along the southern line of the state, yet more common in the Indian territory, now known as Oklahoma. Its habitat was along the timbered streams and the prairies and hills adjacent.

In the fall of 1859 the writer noticed skeletons of buffalo calves, some recently killed and partly eaten, in a heavily timbered bend of the Solomon river a few miles above its mouth. Later, the Sac and Fox Indians on their annual fall hunt camped in that bend, and with the aid of their dogs killed an immense panther. I did not measure the skin, but it was the largest of many that the writer obtained from the Indians in subsequent years. In 1865 the writer saw one on the White Water in Butler county, close to Mean's ranch, where Towanda now stands. It came out of the tall grass, close to where my children were playing in the road, and leisurely bounded along to the bluff to the east.

In the winter of 1864 the writer rode almost onto a very large male lion lying at length upon the prairie some three miles south of the junction of the Medicine Lodge and Salt Fork rivers, near the great salt plain. His color harmonized so completely with the dead, brown buffalo-grass that he was not observed until I was almost onto him. He was not disposed to move from his position, and not having my rifle with me I rode around him at a distance of fifty feet and talked to him, but could not induce him to move, except his eyes and head, which followed my every movement. A bunch of wild horses near by in a ravine may have been his quest. I rode away, leaving him to his meditations.

In March, 1868, near a spring surrounded by trees, south of the Canadian river, I saw the skeletons of seven antlered deer within a radius of 200 feet. They had been food for panthers, I suppose.

Deer were their principal food, springing upon them from a tree over a trail; or, more frequently, still-hunting them—sneaking upon them in the grass as a cat does a mouse. We once found a deer freshly killed and covered with leaves, its neck bitten through and skin torn by sharp claws—cached for a future meal.